

# Campsie View School Newsletter August 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,



I'd like to extend the very warmest of welcomes to all our pupils and families as we return to school this August. We are absolutely delighted to be able to have almost all our children and young people back en masse today - it has been far too long since we saw them, and you! I don't need to tell you why the 'welcome back' banner above is bigger than usual ... the last five months have been some of the most difficult of all our lives, and especially for our children and families. I'd like to thank you for the care you have provided, 24/7, for your children and young people in the school's enforced absence, for your courage, for your resolve, your hard work, and for your engagement with us with home learning. The Senior Management Team and I spoke to all our parents on a weekly basis during lockdown and we know, from doing so, how very hard this time has been for you. We take off our hats to you and look forward, now, to taking on once again full responsibility for your children's formal education and a shared responsibility for their wellbeing.

We are back at school, but not entirely as we know it. I want to outline here some of the key changes you and our pupils can expect - there isn't space to cover them all, so if there is something NOT included here that you would like information about, please get in touch:

**Curriculum** - we are starting the year with a whole school theme, called 'Welcome back', which will run from now until the October holiday. A huge part of the focus of this theme will be around supporting children to settle and be happy in school again, to get to grips with hygiene protocols and to understand, as far as possible, why they have been away from school so long, what they did during lockdown, the people who helped us during that time and so on. Unfortunately, for the time being we are not going to be able to use the splash and hydro pools, soft play, the Home Economics room and the sensory studio. Outings will take the form of walks in the local area and PE will be taught outdoors. However! Campsie View staff are nothing if not creative, and pupils will be learning

through the core curricular areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing within the 'Welcome Back' theme; there will be a lot of time spent in our outdoor areas, 'cooking' will continue on a smaller scale in classrooms, and so on. *Please see separate section below, which covers Individualised Educational Programmes (IEPs).*

**Lunches** - pupils will be having lunches in their classrooms for the time being. As I mentioned in an earlier communication with you, lunches consist of soup and grab bags with a sandwich, cereal bar, fruit and yoghurt in them. Children who need their food pureed can still have this, using soup / spaghetti hoops and mashed potato, and there is toast available too; however, you may wish to send in a packed lunch as well as the usual snack - I am aware that many of our pupils may not be too impressed with the grab bags and the other options.

**PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)** - there will be times when staff need to wear PPE (gloves, aprons, masks, visors), for example when two adults are providing intimate care together for a child. Some staff have opted to wear masks at all times - the guidance from the local authority and Scottish Government is that, although masks are not needed at all times, staff should be allowed to wear them if they feel more comfortable doing so. Staff are aware that some children may find this disconcerting, and also that mask wearing can inhibit clear communication, so they will be sensitive to these issues and adapt, as far as possible, accordingly.

### **Parents & visitors in school**

If you are dropping your child off and picking him or her up at the end of the day you will know that we now have multiple access points around the school, with each class having a designated one and parents a 10-minute time slot within which to arrive and depart with children. It will take us all a few days to get used to this aspect of the 'new normal' but I am confident that in time it will run smoothly and help ensure that mixing between children, staff and parents / carers is kept to a minimum. Can I remind you that you should not enter the school building when you are dropping off or collecting your children? Staff will meet you at your designated access point to take or hand pupils over. Bus and taxi escorts and drivers have also been asked not to enter the building, with staff meeting them too at the access points.

Would-be visitors to school are being kept to an absolute minimum and need first to make an appointment via the office. If you need to get in touch with us, please do so by email or 'phone whenever possible. I do understand that there may be times when only a visit will do - if this is the case, please ring so that I can arrange a mutually convenient time with you.

**Cleaning** - the school had an enhanced clean just before we re-opened, and our EIS rep and one of our support staff did a walk of the school with me and Ann Davie, Depute Chief Executive, on Tuesday, to satisfy ourselves that everything was as it should be before pupils returned today. We also now have an additional day cleaner, Kieran, in the building between 9 and 3 every day. Kieran's job is to clean continuously throughout the day, paying particular attention to 'high touch' areas and items such as door handles. I have also

asked him to go into classrooms if teachers request this when children are outdoors, so that he can assist with the policy of 'clean as you go' in classrooms too.

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Absence from school / arrangements for dealing with symptoms of COVID19 - I have written this section in red because it is so important! As always, should your child be absent from school at any time I would very much appreciate it if you would contact the school to let us know the reason for the absence. There is always someone in the office from 8 in the morning, so please let us know about any absence after 8 but before the start of school at 9. It would also be helpful if you could inform us of any medical appointments in advance. If you forget to contact us, we will contact you. Part of East Dunbartonshire Child Protection procedures requires us to follow up any unexplained absences.



Please **DO NOT** send your child into school if he or she is displaying any symptoms of COVID19 or is unwell in any way at all. If a child starts displaying symptoms during the day at school, he or she will be taken immediately to the isolation room and looked after there until a parent can come to collect him or her. You should then arrange for a test for your child and other members of your household, either by phoning 0800 028 2816 or online at [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot). Please remember to contact the school to inform us of the result of the test, and keep your child at home until you either have a negative result or, in the case of a positive result, the isolation period(s) have been observed by your child and family.

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### Transport

I am so sorry that the arrangements for transport this year, and communicating these to you, has been so last-minute or, in many cases, has not happened at all until you have got in touch with us. Normally the person who organises the buses would have let you have bus information at some point much earlier in the holidays, and the taxi companies would also have contacted you to share their information, but everything has been very uncertain for a long time and then it all happened in the last week or so - so tenders for taxis were set up late and a decision about whether or not we could use the buses fully was also late in coming through.

### Annual paperwork

By the end of this first school week you should receive the usual 'start of session' paperwork in an envelope in your child's school bag. Some of the paperwork needs to be completed and returned - it would be really helpful if it could come back to school in the same envelope:



- Please note that there are **2 different forms** to be completed to allow us to photograph the pupils
- I have included the usual outing consent form, which needs to be filled in and signed; please note, however, that outings other than walks in the local area will not be taking place for the time being, as outlined above
- It is important that we know about your child's health needs. The Local Authority requires that information on medications given in school be updated on an annual basis. Please complete the forms covering this and ensure that you inform the school nurses, by 'phone and in writing, about any changes as they occur.
- The Annual Data Check is required by the Authority.

### School uniform

East Dunbartonshire Council is keen that schools encourage the wearing of school uniform. As well as looking smart and adding to the positive ethos of the school, it is particularly useful when pupils are on outings or walks as it means that they are quickly and easily identifiable. Should you wish to purchase any items of school uniform please contact Lesley or Anne-marie in the office. The *primary school colours* are a **red polo shirt** and **royal blue sweatshirt**. The *senior school uniform* is a **sky blue polo** shirt and **navy sweatshirt**.

Could you please ensure that you label all of your child's clothing, including shoes, if possible?

### School Improvement Plan / Standards & Quality Report



This year's School Improvement Plan, like so many other things, will be somewhat different this year in that its broad focus has been determined by the Local Authority rather than by staff in schools, as would usually be the case, in order to take account of the pandemic and its effect on our school community. It will focus on 'recovery' and include a number of priorities: health & wellbeing, family engagement, nurture, outdoor learning and contingency planning for blended / home learning.

The Standards & Quality Report, which reports on our progress from August 2019 to the end of March 2020 (when the school closed for lockdown) will be available shortly on the school website. Hard copies will also be available from the office if this is your preferred method of consumption!

### Parent Council & PTA



Both the Parent Council and the PTA met virtually during lockdown and in the summer holidays. No





dates have yet been set for this year's meetings, but I will let you know as soon as we have some.

### **New staff**



I am delighted to welcome Scott Parker to the school. Scott is covering Susan Russell's maternity leave and will be team teaching with Jenny Kenny in Class 4.

### **Individualised Educational Programmes (IEPs)**

Teaching staff have been working hard to write pupils' new IEPs for the 20/21 school session. Simon has read and checked all the Senior Phase IEPs and I have done likewise with all the others, but we welcome and encourage input from you, our parents and carers, too. You will be sent a copy of your son's / daughter's draft IEP early in September and will have the opportunity to discuss it with your child's key worker and ask for changes / amendments / additions as you see fit. The IEPs for this year include a number of targets directly related to the pandemic and helping children to adapt to being in school again, complying with hand washing routines and so on.

For parents of most nursery children and Primary 1 pupils please note that there will NOT be a draft IEP sent home (these are usually produced for nursery and Primary 1 children at different times in the school year).

### **Applications for school clothing grants**

A new combined online application form for free school meals, free nursery meals and school clothing grants was launched in July 2020. You can apply for all eligible children in your household on the same combined form: <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-learning/grants/school-clothing-grant>

### **New Holiday Dates**

The holidays this year follow a similar pattern to previous years. You will have the holiday calendar, which includes in-service dates, emailed out to you separately, so please look out for this. Please note that the first holiday will be the September weekend, when the school will be closed from Friday 25<sup>th</sup> - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September (inclusive).



### **Finally...**

I would like to finish by saying, as I would normally do, that I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible very soon, but of course current circumstances may mean that the opportunities for meeting up are fewer than is normally the case. Let's hope that infection rates across Scotland stay low and that we can review many of

the somewhat constrained aspects of school life before too much longer so that we can indeed meet up properly before too long. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to email or to ring if there is anything at all you need or would like to discuss, especially if you have any concerns around the return to school and any matters connected directly or indirectly to our 'recovery'.

Kind regards

*Anna Lewis*

Anna Lewis  
Head Teacher